

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Attorney Docket No.: 35332.14.1

ZORBAS et al.

Application No.: 10/772,941

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: February 5, 2004

Group Art Unit: 3634

For: Soft Furnishing Assembly and Method of Construction Thereof

SUBMISSION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

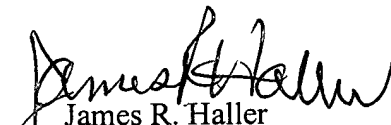
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Respectfully submitted,


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I, LEANNE MYNOTT, MANAGER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2003902071 for a patent by TASS ZORBAS, JOHN ZORBAS and STAVROS ZORBAS as filed on 01 May 2003.

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WITNESS my hand this
Second day of June 2004

LEANNE MYNOTT
MANAGER EXAMINATION SUPPORT
AND SALES



APPLICANT:

TASS ZORBAS, JOHN ZORBAS
and STAVROS ZORBAS

NUMBER:

FILED:

AUSTRALIA

THE PATENTS ACT 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION FOR THE INVENTION ENTITLED

"A PELMET ASSEMBLY"

The present invention will be described in the following statement:

TITLE

"A PELMET ASSEMBLY"

5 The present invention relates to a pelmet assembly, in particular a pelmet assembly for the dressing of windows and the like.

Pelmets are a well known soft furnishing feature, commonly used to conceal ornamentally features of window dressings or door assemblies such as blind and curtain tracks and sliding door tracks, which may be considered to be unsightly and aesthetically displeasing.

10 Generally, it may be convenient for the pelmet assembly as manufactured to be transported in one piece to a place of installation. This may serve to create difficulties in transport and handling, particularly when the manufactured pelmet is of a large size.

15 The present invention attempts to overcome at least in part the aforementioned disadvantages of previously known pelmet assemblies.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention there is provided a pelmet assembly, comprising an intermediate portion having opposed ends, and a respective end portion hingedly connected to at least one end of the intermediate portion, the or
20 each end portion being pivotable between a first position in which the pelmet assembly is substantially flat and a second position in which the or each end portion is angled relative to the intermediate portion.

The present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front perspective of the pelmet assembly in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention in an unassembled condition;

5 Figure 2 is rear perspective of the pelmet assembly of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the pelmet assembly of Figure 1 in a first stage of assembly;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the pelmet assembly of Figure 1 in an assembled condition.

10 Figure 5 is a perspective view of the pelmet assembly in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention, illustrating a second means of assembling a pelmet assembly; and

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the pelmet assembly of Figure 5 as packaged for sale or transport.

15 Referring to Figures 1 to 4 of the accompanying drawings, where like numerals denote like parts in different embodiments, there is shown a pelmet assembly 10 comprising an intermediate portion 12 and at least one end portion 14. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the pelmet assembly 10 is provided with a pair
20 of end portions 14 as shown. However, it should be understood that the pelmet assembly 10 may be provided with a single end portion 14 only, as dictated by the arrangement of the place of installation of the pelmet assembly 10. For example, one end of the pelmet assembly 10 could abut wall disposed at right angles to a window opening. The end portions 14 are each hingedly connected to respective opposed

ends 24 of the intermediate portion 12. The intermediate portion 12 is a substantially flat, elongate member with a front surface 26 and an opposed rear surface 28. The front surface 26 serves as a face onto which decorative material, such as fabric, may be applied.

5 Typically, the front and rear surfaces 26 and 28 of the intermediate portion 12 are substantially rectangular in shape, although it is envisaged that any suitable shape may also be employed as desired. The ends 24 of the intermediate portion 12 are inclined at an acute angle to the front and rear surfaces 26 and 28. In a preferred embodiment, the inclined ends 24 of the intermediate portion 12 are such that a
10 longitudinal cross-section of the intermediate portion 12 is substantially trapezoidal in configuration. The intermediate portion 12 is typically formed of any suitable, non-deformable material that is able to maintain the shape of the pelmet assembly 10, such as chipboard, wood or a relatively hard plastic material.

Each end portion 14 also includes a front surface 30 and an opposed rear surface 32.

15 The front surface 30 serves as a face onto which suitable padding and decorative material may be affixed. Each end portion 14 is further provided with an inclined surface 18 at an end thereof that is proximal to a respective end 24 of the intermediate portion 12. The inclined surface 18 of each end portion 14 is disposed at an angle which is substantially complementary with the angle of the adjacent end 24.

20 Each end portion 14 is hingedly connected to a respective end 24 of the intermediate portion 12 by a fastening means 27. The hinged connection is such that the end portions 14 are pivotable between a first position in which the end portions 14 are coplanar with the intermediate portion 12 and a second position in which the end portions 14 are disposed at an angle, such as a right angle, to the adjacent end 24 of

the intermediate portion 12. A substantially V-shaped groove 16 is formed by the inclined surface 18 of the end portion 14 and the end 24 of the intermediate portion 12 when the pelmet assembly 10 is in the first position, as is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

In a preferred embodiment, the fastening means 27 is a flexible web member 29, which is placed over a portion of the front surface 26 of the intermediate portion 12 and adjacent end 24 and over a portion of the front surface 30 of the adjacent end portion 14, prior to any padding or decorative material being placed onto the respective front surfaces 26 and 30. The web member 29 may be affixed to the respective front surfaces 26 and 30 of the intermediate portion 12 and end portions 14 by any suitable means, such as by means of adhesive or staples.

The intermediate portion 12 and end portions 14 are each further provided with a channel 22 as shown in Figure 2. The channel 22 is disposed linearly substantially along the length of the rear surface 28 of the intermediate portion 12 and of the rear surface 32 of each of the end portions 14. The disposition of the channel 22 of the intermediate portion 12 is to correspond to the disposition of the channel 22 of each of the end portions 14, wherein the channel 22 of the intermediate portion 12 and the end portions 14 are substantially aligned when the pelmet assembly 10 is in the first position as shown in Figure 2.

The channel 22 is arranged to receive a support member 20. The support member 20 is a substantially flat panel, with an upper surface 38 and a lower surface 39. The support member 20 is arranged to be inserted into the channel 22 of the intermediate portion 12 and of the end portions 14 to maintain and support the pelmet assembly 10 when in the assembled configuration. The support member 20 is further provided with at least one notch 21, disposed on an edge of the support member 20 that is adjacent

the end portion 14 and distal to the intermediate portion 12. The notch 21 is provided such that fabric that has been folded back from the front surface 30 of the end portions 14 and secured to the rear surface 32 of the end portions 14 does not obstruct the placement of the support member 20 into the channel 22.

5 A plurality of securing means may be attached to the support member 20 and to the intermediate portion 12 and also to the end portions 14. In the first embodiment of the present invention, the securing means are provided as single brackets 36, as is shown in Figure 4. Preferably, the securing means attaches the support member 20 to the pelmet assembly 10 at the upper surface 38, so that the securing means are not
10 clearly visible when the pelmet assembly 10 has been suitably installed.

The pelmet assembly 10 may be provided with a fabric tensioning means in the form of a flexible cord 46, arranged along the length of the groove 16 of the rear of the pelmet assembly 10. The flexible cord 46 is attached at a first end to a portion of fabric that protrudes from the groove 16 when the pelmet assembly 10 is placed in the
15 second position. An intermediate portion of the flexible cord 46 is attached to an opposing portion of fabric protruding from the groove 16. The flexible cord 46 is then tensioned before securing a second end of the flexible cord 46 to any suitable region of the rear of the pelmet assembly 10. In this manner, the fabric tensioning means may prevent fabric from protruding from the groove 16 when the pelmet
20 assembly 10 is in the second position.

Upon packaging of the pelmet assembly 10 for sale or transport, the support member 20 may be placed over one of the end portions 14 and a portion of the intermediate portion 12. A packing panel 44 is also provided, the packing panel 44 arranged to be placed over the remaining length of the pelmet assembly 10. The packing panel 44

may optionally have an indentation present on a surface of the packing panel 44. The indentation may be used to store hardware, such as screws and brackets 36, necessary for the assembly or installation of the pelmet assembly 10.

In use, the intermediate portion 12 is hingedly connected at ends 24 thereof to the pair
5 of opposing end portions 14 by affixing the web members 28 to portions of the front surface 26 and 30 of the intermediate portion 12 and the end portions 14 as described hereinabove. The pelmet assembly 10 as thus far assembled is then placed so that the channel 22 faces upwards.

The front surface 26 of the intermediate portion 12 and front surface 30 of the end
10 portions 14 may first be covered with a padding material, such as foam, prior to the pelmet assembly 10 being covered in fabric, to give the pelmet assembly 10 a softer appearance and assist in the overall aesthetic appeal of the pelmet assembly 10. Ends of the fabric may be secured at the rear surfaces 28 and 32 of the intermediate portion 12 and end portions 14 respectively by any suitable means such as adhesive or staples.

The support member 20 is then inserted into the portion of the channel 22 present on
15 the intermediate portion 12. One of the end portions 14 is then folded about the hinged connection, generally towards the rear surface 28 of the intermediate portion 12. The end portion 14 is thus folded such that the channel 22 present on the end portion 14 receives a side of the support member 20, as is shown in Figure 3. One of
20 the securing means, such as a bracket 36, is then used to secure the support member 20 to the rear surface 28 of the intermediate portion 12 and also to the rear surface 32 of the end portion 14. Alternatively, the fastening means 35 may be received by the corresponding apertures 40, present on the sides of the support member 20. This step

is then repeated with the opposing end portion 14 to achieve the assembled pelmet as shown in Figure 4.

A second embodiment of the present invention, shown in Figures 5 and 6 is also provided. In this embodiment of the pelmet assembly 10, a plurality of fastening means 35 are provided, arranged at intervals along the channel 22 as is shown in Figure 5. The support member 20 is accordingly provided with apertures 40 on the sides that are placed into the channel 22, corresponding to the placement of the fastening means 35 along the channel 22. Preferably, the fastening means 35 are of a type that fastens automatically upon insertion into the apertures 40, such as a christmas tree screw.

Optionally, the fastening means 35 that protrude from the channel 22 may be concealed when the pelmet assembly 10 is packaged for sale or transport by the provision of recesses 42 on the upper surface 38 of the support member 20. In this manner, the support member 20 may be placed over one of the end portions 14 and a portion of the intermediate portion 12, such that the recesses 42 present on the support member 20 fit over the fastening means 35. Preferably, the recesses 42 are arranged on the upper surfaces 38, so that the recesses 42 are not clearly visible when the pelmet assembly 10 has been suitably installed.

A packing panel 44 is also provided, the packing panel 44 having recesses 42 corresponding to the arrangement of fastening means 35 of the portions of the pelmet assembly 10 not concealed by the recesses 42 present on the upper surface 38 of the support member 20. The recesses 42 present on the support member 20 and the packing panel 44 are of dimensions that are greater than those of the securing means 35, to prevent the fastening means 35 from becoming lodged in the recesses 42. The

packing panel 44 may optionally be provided with an indentation, present on a surface of the packing panel 44. The indentation may be used to store hardware, such as screws, necessary for the installation of the pelmet assembly 10.

In use, the intermediate portion 12 is hingedly connected at ends 24 thereof to the pair of opposing end portions 14 as substantially described in the first embodiment of the present invention. The pelmet assembly 10 as thus far assembled is then placed so that the channel 22 faces upwards.

Upon covering of the front surfaces 26 and 30 of the intermediate portion 12 and end portions 14 respectively with suitable padding and fabric, the support member 20 is inserted into the channel 22 as substantially described in the first embodiment. The corresponding apertures 40 present on the sides of the support member 20 receive the fastening means 35 present on the channel 22, whereupon the fastening means 35 secure the support member 20 to the intermediate portion 12.

One of the end portions 14 is then folded about the hinged connection, generally towards the rear surface 28 of the intermediate portion 12. The corresponding apertures 40 present on the sides of the support member 20 receive the fastening means 35 present on the channel 22 of the end portion 14, whereupon the fastening means 35 secure the support member 20 to the end portion 14. This step is then repeated with the opposing end portion 14 to achieve the assembled pelmet, ready for installation.

Modifications and variations as would be apparent to a skilled addressee are deemed to be within the scope of the present invention.



DATED THIS 1ST DAY OF MAY 2003.

TASS ZORBAS, JOHN ZORBAS and STAVROS ZORBAS
By their Patent Attorneys
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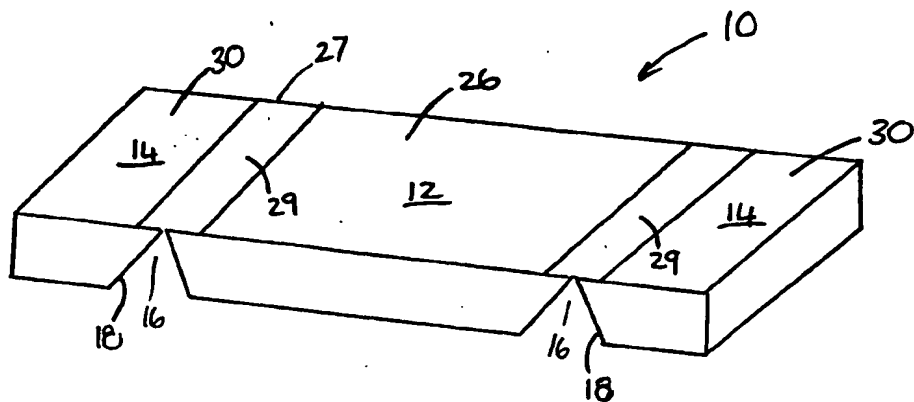


Figure 1

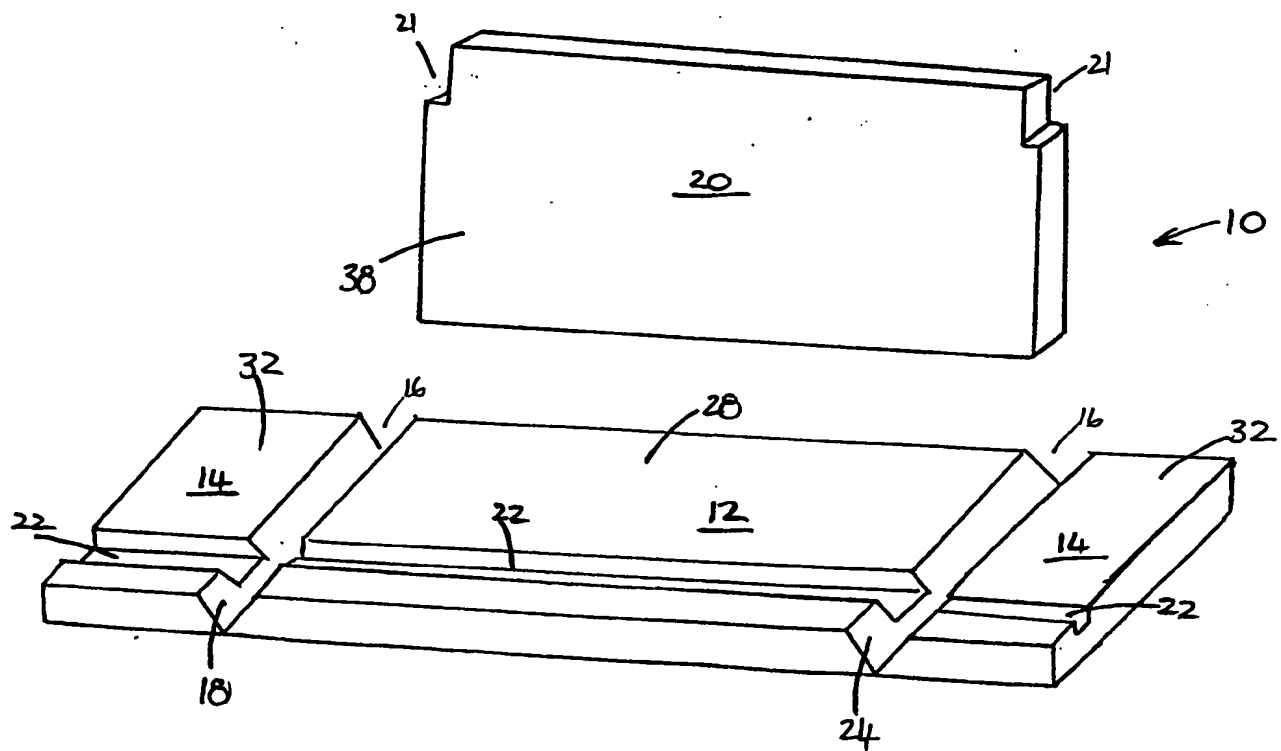


Figure 2

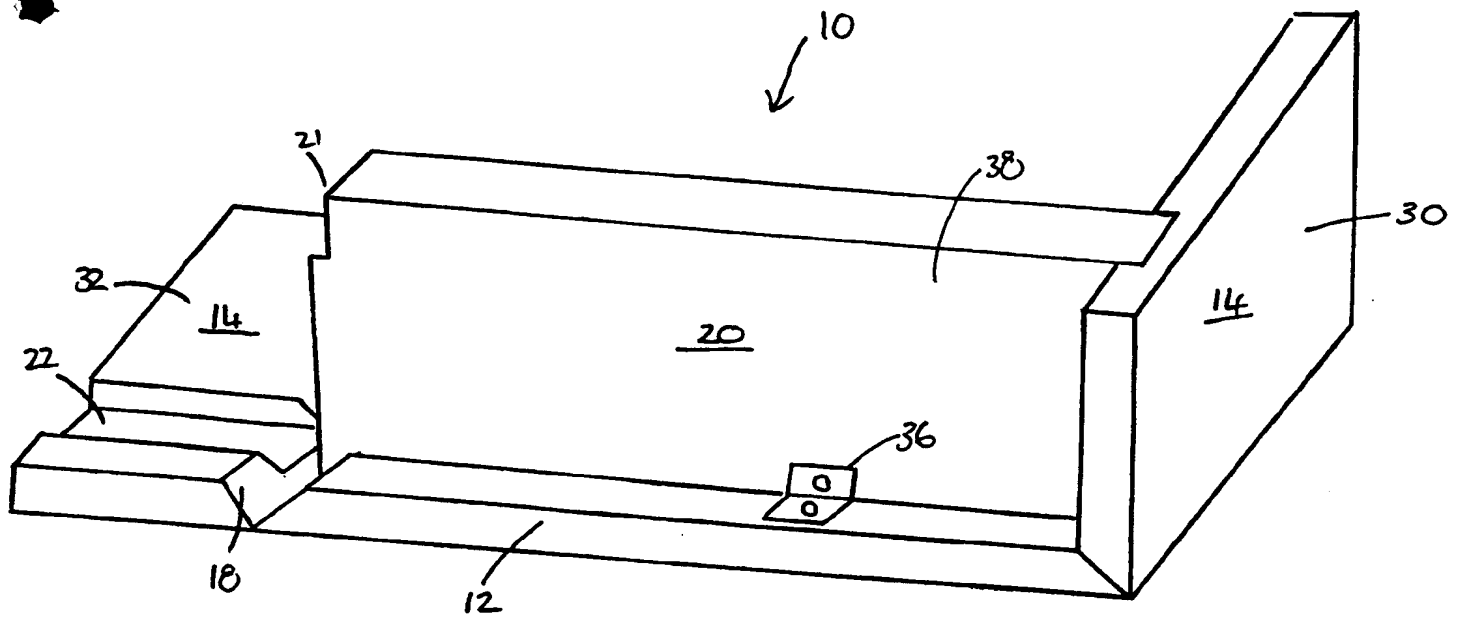


Figure 3

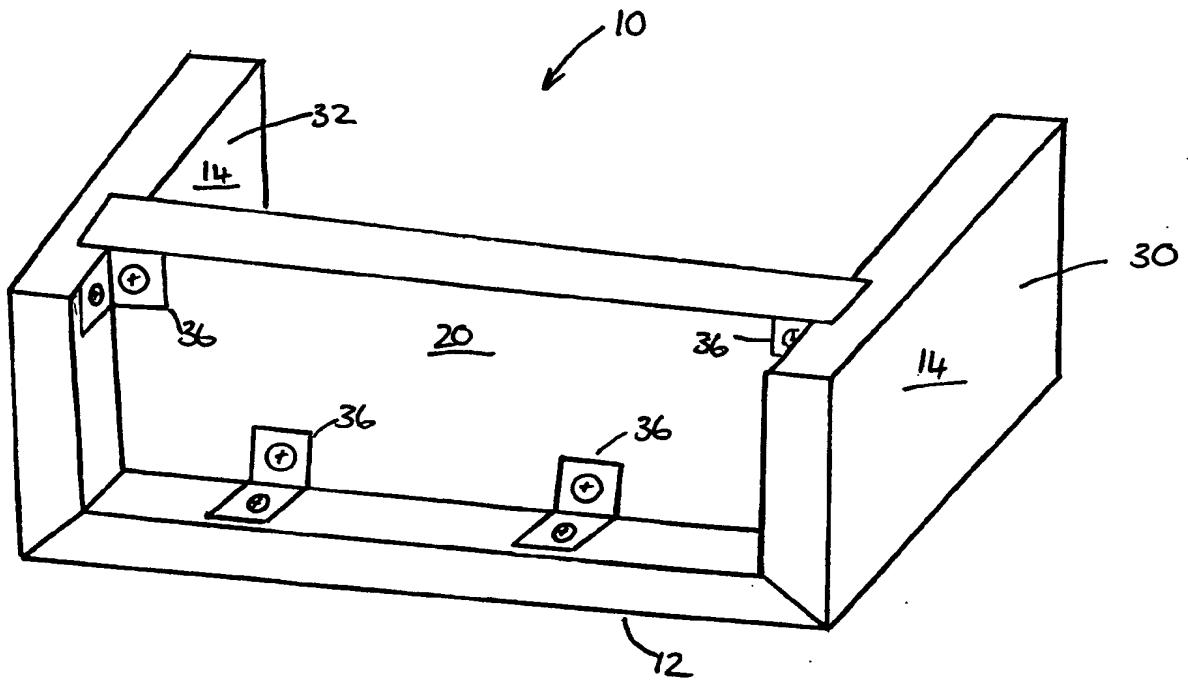


Figure 4

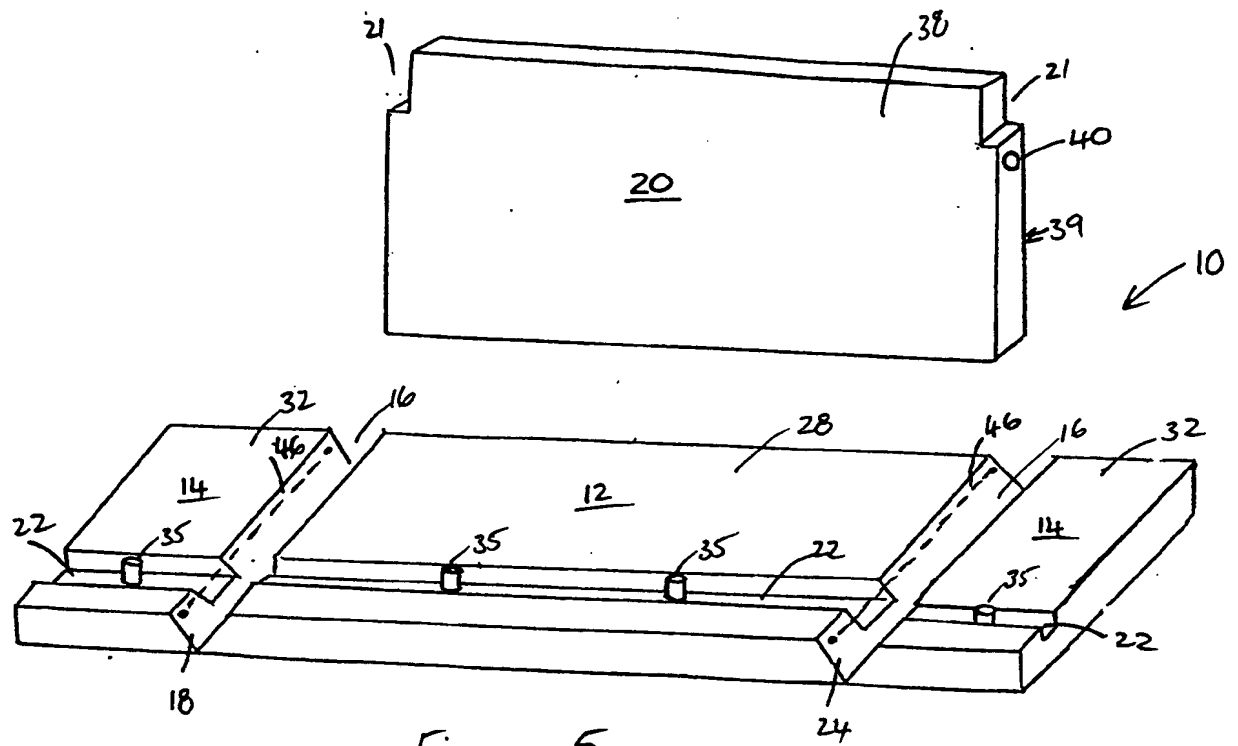


Figure 5

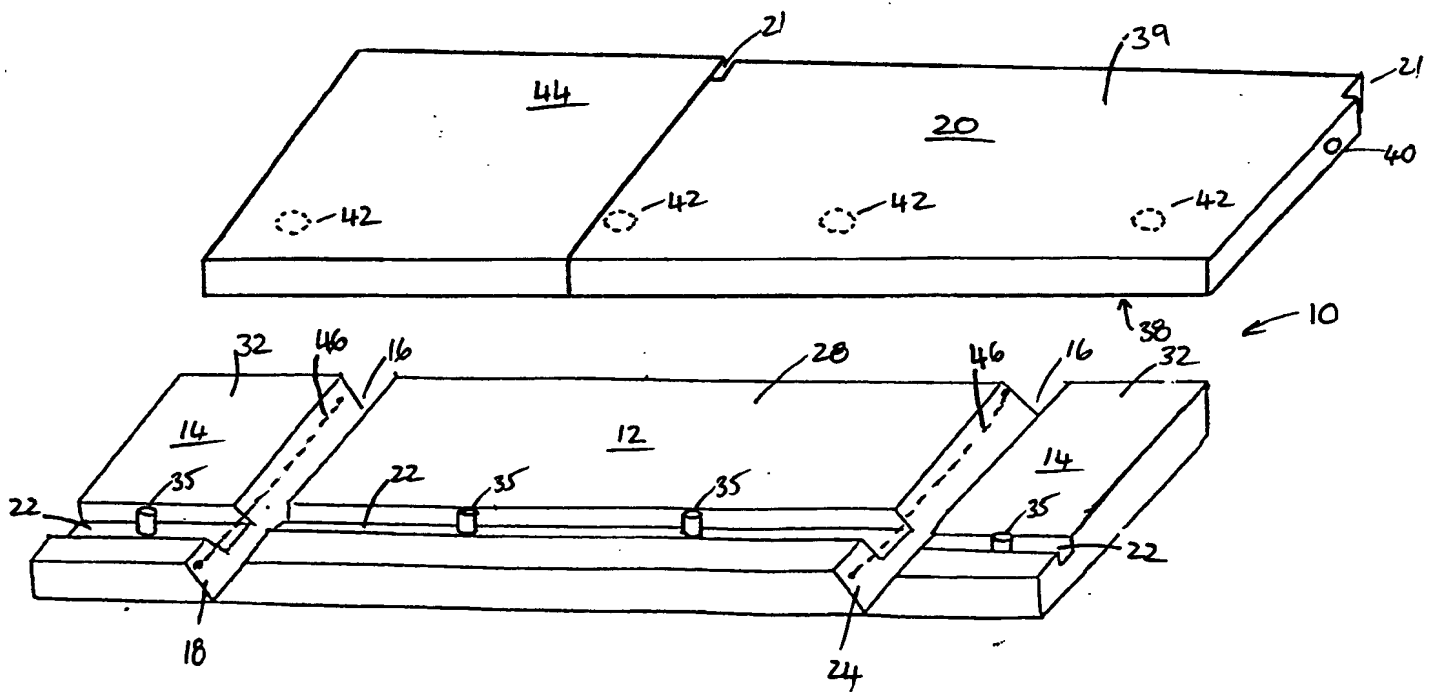


Figure 6

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